

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

used in the John Jay Study

Allegation: Any credible accusation that is not *implausible* (see definition below). This should include allegations that did not result in a criminal, civil or diocesan investigation and allegations that are unsubstantiated.

Clergy or Cleric: Any current or former, living or deceased, diocesan, clergy, religious Cardinal, Arch/Bishop/Eparch, Priest, Deacon or Seminarian. Religious orders include societies, congregations and male, clerical communities. This does not include lay people, brothers or nuns within the Church.

Diocese: For purposes of clarity and flow, when the term diocese is used in a question, it will be understood to refer to diocesan, eparchial and religious orders, societies and communities.

False allegation: an allegation that was proven to be untruthful and fabricated.

Implausible: Any allegation that could not possibly have happened under the given circumstances (e.g., an accusation is made against a priest who was deceased at the time of the alleged offense). Erroneous information does not necessarily make the allegation implausible (e.g., a priest arrived at the diocese a year after the alleged abuse, but all other facts of the case are credible and the alleged victim might have mistaken the date).

Sexual abuse: As per the Charter, sexual abuse includes contacts or interactions between a child and an adult when the child is being used as an object of sexual gratification for the adult. A child is abused whether or not this activity involves explicit force, whether or not it involves genital or physical contact, whether or not it is initiated by the child, and whether or not there is discernible harmful outcome.

This glossary accompanied the John Jay Study survey to clarify terms for reporting purposes.